

Mike Boehme

Steve Nelson

Partners of Bonner Property Development

Owners of the former Stimson Mill Site

Bonner, MT

Chair Tutvedt and members of the Senate Taxation Committee,

We're partners in Bonner Property Development which owns the former 143 acre Stimson Mill Site in Bonner, Montana. Bonner Property Development also owns most of the historic company housing along Highway 200 near the mill site.

Working with Missoula County, we recently formed a new tax increment financing industrial district at our mill site. We think this is going to be a great tool in reestablishing manufacturing in Bonner and we already have several manufacturing tenants including Northwest Paints, Willis Enterprises chipping operation, and our newest tenant, ALCOM a light trailer manufacturer who recently added 30 full time jobs to our economy. The infrastructure was built 100 years ago for the purposes of a saw mill. This TIF district really helps us update that infrastructure for modern industrial uses.

There are other infrastructure needs outside the TIF district that would directly benefit industrial activities at the mill. Had SB 239 been in place at the time Missoula County created this district, TIF funding could have contributed to improvements, such as a water and sewer system, that serve the housing units adjacent to the industrial site. Many prospective companies see that housing as an asset.

From a private business owner's perspective we believe that tax increment financing is an important tool that enables the private and public sector to collaborate on valuable infrastructure improvements. SB 239 provides consistency in the statutes and needed flexibility to further promote manufacturing in Montana.